

High Bridge State Park
Master Plan Advisory Committee Meeting
June 29, 2006
Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 PM. Committee members in attendance were: Mr. Austin, Ms. Burton, Mr. Calkins, Mr. Craft, Mr. Doswell, Mr. Floyd, Ms. Campbell, Ms. Morris, Ms. Terry, Mr. Fore, Ms. Goin, Mr. Mitchell, Mr. Wilcox, Ms. Puckett, Ms. Rice, Ms. Schmucker, Ms. Swinson, Mr. Leatherwood, Mr. McKissick, Ms. Kahl, and Ms. Carney. DCR staff present were: Ms. Zahn, Mr. Hougland, Mr. Jordan, Mr. Zawatsky, Mr. Shuppin, Mr. Wallace, Ms. Reeder, Ms. Wampler, and Mr. Munson. Katherine Orth, a reporter for the Times Dispatch, six students from Longwood University, two members of the Friends of the Appomattox River, and other interested persons also attended.

The meeting began with a discussion of the impressions committee members had following their tour of the railroad corridor on June 22nd. Most were favorably impressed with the variety of scenery and topography, amount of vegetative buffer present even in more populated areas, and the scale of High Bridge. Everyone was impressed with Chris Calkins' description of the events surrounding the battle of High Bridge and thanked him for his presentation.

The committee then conducted an environmental scoping of the corridor to identify those assets and opportunities that should be considered in development of the master plan for the park. The key findings by question follow.

1. Identify any cultural or historic resources in the corridor.

- Clay pipe factory – Pamplin
- Civil War maneuver areas
- Archeological site -Mississippian burial mound
 - Smith-Taylor mound (owner of Greenfront property)
- 4 forts at High Bridge
- The Southside RR, depots in each town
 - Norfolk & Western history
 - Norfolk & Southern history
- Tobacco warehouses
- Farmville: once the 4th busiest port in VA
- Navigation structures on the Appomattox River -Crib dam behind Prince Edward Mills
- Bizarre Plantation
- Jamestown
- Village of Prospect & depot
 - Oldest original RR depot– 1854
- Evolution of construction technology
- Trade & Commerce of Central VA – Longwood VAC
- Calvary Battle near Bizarre
- Burke's Tavern
- Twin Lakes
- Pleasant Shade Plantation-Moton birthplace
- Moton School
- Israel Hill – where trail goes over bridge at 460 – 1000 free blacks buried
- Kyanite mine and shipping
- Coal mine –coal shipped to Chesterfield

Logging
Black-leaf tobacco
RR museum – Crewe
Confederate hospital and burial ground Farmville
Buffalo Shook
Westview Cemetery- 37 Black burials – two Governors –McKinley & Randolph

2. Identify significant natural or geological resources in the corridor.
 - Appomattox River
 - Stone cuts of rail bed
 - Mineral-rich area
 - Kyanite
 - Big Boy boon – confluence of Buffalo & Appomattox
 - Birding and Wildlife Trail
 - Feather Fin WMA
 - WMA's, state forests & parks, natural heritage areas in region
3. Identify recreational resources in the corridor.
 - Grove Street Park
 - Poplar Hill Golf Course
 - Stanley Park – Trails/restrooms
 - Wilkes Lake
 - Shopping
 - Farmville Town trail system
 - Equestrian stables
 - Old Dominion Trailriders – Pamplin
 - Bike plan/routes
 - Hampden-Sydney facilities
 - Appomattox River-canoes, tubing
 - YMCA – Southside VA – Farmville
 - Twin Lakes SP– Holliday Lake SP
4. Identify population centers, schools, or commercial places where connecting corridors should be considered.
 - Farmville
 - Burkeville
 - Pamplin City
 - Prospect
 - Rice
 - Longwood
5. Identify any public land use conditions or infrastructure plans that the master plan should take into consideration?
 - Hampden-Sydney (Spring Music Festival)
 - Southside Hospital
 - Sailors Creek
 - Appomattox NHP
 - Longwood VAC
 - Heart of VA Festival – Greenfronts
 - RR Festival – Appomattox
 - Patriot Day – Cumberland CH
 - Farmville Trail system

Longwood's facilities north of the park.

6. Identify any private land use conditions or factors that the master plan should take into consideration.

Industrial Park

Buffalo Shook (Safety)

SoLite – good corporate neighbor

The Old Mill

Prospect Fire Dept / crossing

Active RR at both ends

Cell tower on 460

VDOT road crossings

Southern States in Farmville

Greenfront

Park Purpose

7. What should be the purpose of High Bridge State Park? – Themes?

Catalyst for economic development

Interpret the Civil War – High Bridge

RR history

Revolutionary / Colonial history

Appomattox River

Public health – everyday use

Wealth of surrounding public lands

Pathways to perspectives

High Bridge State Park is a linear park that ties together the communities in the heart of Virginia where the Civil War meets Civil Rights.

Committee members were asked to send their thoughts on a purpose statement to Bob.

8. What recreational activities should be provided in the park?
hiking, biking, equestrian, all age groups, river access, bird watching/nature study, wireless access/interpretive kiosk, special events, picnicking, educational and interpretive programs. Park should be a non-motorized trail except for possible special events and mobility-assistance devices, handicapped accessible, limit size of non-motorized vehicles, hours of operation: dawn to dusk. Snack bar, bike livery, rockwall/climber, geo-caching, skateboards, rollerblades, amphitheater, canoe/kayak/boating livery, supply store, B&B's/cabins, equestrian campground, developed RV campgrounds and primitive campgrounds.

9. Which of those activities could be provided by the private sector and which should park provide?

PARK - Hiking, biking, equestrian, river access, bird watching/nature study, interpretive programs, special events, picnicking, amphitheater, geo-caching. If sections of the trail surface are paved, skateboarding and rollerblading could be provided.

PRIVATE SECTOR- Snack bar, bike livery, rockwall/climber, canoe/kayak/boating livery, supply store, Bed &Breakfasts/cabins, equestrian campgrounds and liveries, campgrounds -developed /primitive.

Park Facilities

10. What facilities will the park need to have?

Parking

restrooms

- water
- shelters/picnic areas
- call boxes
- trash cans
- bike racks
- kiosk (maps, rules, interpretive info, etc.)
- hitching rails
- gates/fences
- mileage markers
- step offs on the bridge(interpretive stops)
- ranger stations
- ranger residences
- maintenance areas east and west

11/12. What infrastructure will the park need to have?

- Connecting routes and linkages to area attractions
- Broadband
- Electricity and telephone service to offices/shops
- Electronic Kiosks
- Water and sewer hookups where available

13 – Carrying Capacity- to be determined at a future meeting.

14. Which segment should be developed first?

Highest priority is to provide access to High Bridge.

Phase I: Begin in Farmville and develop to Rice or Burkeville if funding stretches that far.

Phase II. Farmville to Prospect or Pamplin if funding stretches that far.

Phase III. Prospect to Pamplin or Rice to Burkeville, determined by status of connector corridor

Phase IV. Remaining segment.

15. Where should additional land be acquired?

- Remaining Railroad corridor at each end (into Burkeville and Pamplin)
- Prospect – (buildings & 3 acres to 460) across from depot available soon
- Trailhead and maintenance area in Rice
- Parking in Farmville
- River access at Wilke's Lake Trail
- Land adjustment at SMI-now CMC
- Parking near High Bridge – SS Electric Co-op Stoddard Station
- Connecting corridors to Burkeville, Pamplin
- Maintenance area near Pamplin
- Residences as Market provides

Following the environmental screening session, the committee discussed how best to communicate with the public about the progress being made during the master planning process.

1. Who do we want to communicate with?

Adjacent property owners and businesses, public and private schools, county websites, business list-serves, VDOT, Longwood student body, local governments (administrators and elected officials), tourism and VTC, regional economic development/CRC, law enforcement, fire/rescue, EMS, visitor centers, local civic groups, parks & recreation departments, and local media.

2. What is the best way to communicate with the affected landowners?

Write a newsletter and distribute to a full range of media outlets as well as to all adjacent property owners and targeted individuals and organizations.

Ways to distribute the newsletter were identified as follows.

Direct mail

Electronic media

Newspapers – Farmville Herald, Crewe/Burkeville Journals, Richmond Times Dispatch, Cumberland Bulletin

Farmville website and channel 2

Libraries

Chamber of Commerce

Other websites

Historical societies

DCR Website

Each locality agreed to compile a list of adjacent property owners in a mailing list format.

DCR agreed to prepare a periodic newsletter that will be mailed to all persons and businesses on that list.

The next meeting will be held at the VDOT Training Center in Farmville on July 27th at 1:00 PM.

The meeting adjourned at 3:50 PM.